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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Sept. 11, 2003

**Contact:** UM School of Journalism, (406) 243-4001.

### **ALBERTA PREMIER TO VISIT UM FOR TALK**

#### **MISSOULA –**

Alberta Premier Ralph Klein – a former journalist turned politician – will be on The University of Montana campus Thursday, Sept. 18, to deliver a lecture and meet with students.

Klein, Alberta's top elected official, will deliver the Marjorie Nichols Memorial Lecture at 2 p.m. in the University Center Theater. His lecture is titled "A Journalist Enters Politics – Some Personal Reflections." Klein will be available to answer questions after his lecture.

The lecture, sponsored by the UM School of Journalism, is dedicated to Marjorie Nichols, a 1966 UM journalism school graduate who went on to become one of Canada's most prominent political reporters. Nichols died of cancer in 1991 at the age of 48.

Klein also will talk to UM journalism school students and have lunch with campus and local officials during his daylong visit to Missoula.

The leader of Alberta's Progressive Conservative Party, Klein has served as premier of the province since 1992.

A Calgary native, Klein interrupted his high school studies to join the Canadian Air Force. After leaving the service, he completed his high school education and began his professional life as the principal of the Calgary Business College.

After working in public relations for six years, Klein worked as a television and radio

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reporter in Calgary for 11 years, covering civic affairs. In 1980 he was elected mayor of Calgary – a post he held for three terms. During his tenure as mayor, Klein top accomplishments were hosting the 1988 Winter Olympics, overseeing the construction of Calgary's Light Rail Transit System and facilitating the protection of the Bow River – one of the world's premier trout-fishing rivers.

Klein was elected to a provincial government post in 1989, serving as Alberta's Minister of Environment. He became premier three years later.

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GJ

Local, dailies, Calgary media

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